

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nord Gets the Nod

Kingston Captain Named Fire Chief

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Kevin Nord, a captain in the Kingston fire department and its first paramedic, has been named Duxbury's new fire chief.

Town Manager Rocco Longo made the announcement last week after choosing Nord from among four finalists. Nord, 45, will begin October 17 at a salary of \$85,000. Nord succeeds fire chief William Harriman who retired in August.

Longo said he chose Nord for many reasons. The search committee he organized to

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Kingston resident Kevin Nord will succeed Bill Harriman as Duxbury's newest fire chief.

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weed through the fire chief applicants gave Nord high marks.

"First of all, it's fair to say that everyone I talked with from beginning to end gave positive reports about Kevin Nord," Longo said.

Selectmen Chairman Andre Martecchini was on the search committee and he echoed Longo's comments.

"He was certainly my first choice," said Martecchini. "He brings a very good educational background as exemplified by all his activities. He's well known in the area and his energy will be very important to the department. He's local and he knows a lot of the department through mutual aid with Kingston. I look forward to working with him."

Longo was also impressed with Nord's "extraordinary leadership and communication skills" and his impressive resume listing his commitment to professional education and achievement.

"He has a 26-year career filled with growth," Longo said. "He has a significant passion for his profession. This is a natural step for him to take on his career path."

Nord has been with the Kingston fire department since 1978, working his way up from firefighter to EMT to paramedic and finally to captain in 1994. His resume contains a long list of his accomplishments during the past 26 years, including his experience with the Plymouth county fire and rescue training association, an organization that he co-founded in 1989 and currently serves as presi-

dent. In addition, Nord is involved in many types of training, including training fire fighters for industrial fire brigades, and training the Coast Guard in confined space rescues. The Plymouth county fire and rescue training association trains area fire fighters in many aspects, such as safety and survival, stress management, and incident command.

That Nord lives and works in Kingston, which like Duxbury is part of the emergency planning zone for the Pilgrim nuclear power station in Plymouth, and has experience as the representative to the emergency operations center of the Kingston Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), were also important factors in his decision, said Longo. He feels that Nord can bring the two town's departments closer together.

"He understands the issues around the nuclear power plant and he has such a great relationship with the Kingston department that our mutual aid is now enhanced with Kingston," Longo said.

Nord said that by becoming Duxbury's new chief he is happy to reach one of his career goals, but he does have "mixed emotions" about leaving the Kingston department. Nord has lived in Kingston since moving from Scituate after his high school graduation in 1978, and he will continue to live there with his wife and three young children.

"I'm very excited for the opportunity," said Nord. "This is something I've worked for for years, but I have a good career in Kingston with a

good group of guys. This is a new chapter."

Nord said that after he has a chance to settle into his new position, he will begin to work towards some of the goals he has for Duxbury. These include diversifying the workforce by bringing women into the department. Kingston has two women firefighters/paramedics and Nord thinks this will be a good thing for Duxbury.

He also wants to hire more paramedics to replace retiring firefighters. This will bring advanced life support to Duxbury. There are three levels of life support: basic, which requires 100 hours of training, classes and life experience; intermediate, which requires 300 hours, and paramedic, which requires 1,500 hours. Much of this time is spent learning in hospitals, rotating through different areas to gain knowledge in OB/GYN, surgical, and life support techniques. Nord became Kingston's first paramedic in 1987, working his way up from intermediate emergency medical technician in 1984.

In addition, Nord wants to bring a high level of training to the Duxbury department. It is important to him for the firefighters to have "the opportunity to develop their own careers." He hopes to provide advanced training in leadership, professional development and management.

"I want to be real aggressive with training," Nord said.

As a chief Nord said he'd like to follow in Harriman's footsteps when it comes to working with the public.

"The fire chief's job has evolved over the years," Nord said. "There's more exposure to the fire chief now. Now he is a community leader. I have to be very open to the public and citizens at large. I fully intend to be exposed to that so people with concerns can approach me."